



How to Understand Research

- Who is conducting or interpreting the research?
- What are the research questions or hypotheses?
- Victim advocates need a working understanding of research methods and statistics
- What can really be said about a study's findings?

Basic Research Terms

- Variable
- Study
- Subjects or research participants
- Theoretical framework
- Hypothesis
- Case study
- Sample study

Basic Research Terms (cont.)

- Randomized study
- Controlled study
- Generalizing
- Research questions – research design
- Operational definitions
- Survey

Fundamental Research Methods

- Experimental research design
- Single subject designs
- Correlational studies
- Prevalence/incidence study
- Retrospective/prospective study
- Blind study

Fundamental Research Methods (cont.)

- Quantitative and qualitative research
- Descriptive and inferential statistics
- Statistical significance
- Sample size

Evaluation Research Methods

- Process/impact or outcome evaluation
- Empowerment evaluation

Staying on the Cutting Edge

- Academic institutions
- Periodicals
- On-line services
- Governmental clearinghouses
- Experience

Some Final Research Reminders

- Correlation is not causation
- A significant finding is not necessarily meaningful
- Be alert to clever manipulations of data